

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
TOPIC	Military Activities in Gera, Merseburg and the Forst Zeitz Training Grounds		
EVALUATION		PLACE OBTAINED	25X1
DATE OF CONT			25X1
DATE OBTAINED		PREPARED	11 August 1955
REFERENCES			25X1
PAGES	2	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	
REMARKS			
This is UNEVALUATED Information			

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1. On 7 July 1955, the Reuss Kaserne (8141) in Gera was occupied by approximately 7,800 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery or motor transport insignia. Three barracks were vacant, and only a few windows of a fourth building were lighted after nightfall. In the morning, 4 YA-12 prime movers, each with some 60 artillerymen wearing red-bordered black epaulets, left the installation toward Langenberg.<sup>1</sup>
2. At 1000 on 7 July, 3 YA-12 prime movers were loaded onto 2 flatcars with side tracks at the Gera freight station by soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and were attached to a regular freight train en route to Zeitz, along with 1 boxcar.<sup>2</sup>
3. At 2200 on 9 July, the following shipment arrived from the direction of Altengrabow and was unloaded at the Gera railroad station: 14x 122-mm field guns, 16 YA-12 prime movers, 17 trucks, 2 field kitchens, 1 radio truck, and 120 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets.<sup>3</sup>
4. Between 5 and 10 July, no changes were observed in the Gera-Tina Kaserne (8142). On 7 July, 4 T-34 '85 tanks were seen in an open shed. At about 1730, 2 T-34 tanks, 5 YA-12 prime movers towing 5 guns, presumably 85-mm guns, left the installation toward Langenberg, probably for Zeitzer Wald (training grounds for heavy weapons). The vehicles carried some 60 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets.<sup>4</sup>
5. Between 17 and 20 July, the Flak Kaserne (8321) in Merseburg was occupied by an estimated 700 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and motor-transport insignia. Eight tractors practiced driving in the training area west of the installation. 30 trucks, 10 caravans (Wohnwagen), and 2 field kitchens were seen in the former parking lot for heavy weapons in the barracks area. The construction of a garage, some 50 meters long and 8 meters wide, started near the eastern fence in the same section of the installation.<sup>5</sup>
6. On 8 and 12 July, the following observations were made at the Zeitzer Forest training grounds:  
The training area had been extended as far as the edge of the woods southeast

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of Kossveda, north of Nickelsdorf and north of Lessen. The border was guarded by double-sentries quartered in tents. The sentries wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank and artillery insignia and black-bordered red epaulets with artillery insignia. An estimated 150 T-34 and JS tanks were believed to be stationed in the training area. Some 50 AT guns, howitzers, and heavy machine guns were also seen. Approximately 80 T-34/85 and 16 YA-12 prime movers towing 100-mm AT guns were parked in the north, east, and southeast section of the training grounds. Some 120 trucks were seen near Friedenssiedlung (settlement).<sup>6</sup>

1.  Comment. The Reuss Kaserne is believed to be occupied by the 308th Arty Brig of the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps, the bulk of which is believed to be stationed at the post. 25X1
2.  Comment. Individual YA-12 prime movers were also turned in by the brigade in April and May 1955. 25X1
3.  Comment. Elements of the 308th Arty Brig returned, presumably from firing practices at Altengrabow. The departure from the post had not been observed. 25X1
4.  Comment. Elements of the tank training battalion, which is believed to be stationed in this installation, practiced in the Zeitz Forest.  25X1  
 this training grounds 25X1  
 ("Zeitzer Wald"). 25X1
5.  Comment. Elements of the 76th Arty Brig of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps were apparently absent from the post.  25X1  
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6.  Comment. The Forst Zeitz training grounds is still heavily occupied. It is expected that improvement and enlargement of the training grounds will continue. 25X1

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